

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00469 101018Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 /090 W  
-----053298 101029Z /15

O R 100949Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6919  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 469

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AO, SF, WA, UN, PDEV  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN-ANGOLAN TALKS ON BUFFER ZONE

1. DURING THE MEETING OF THE UK AND US AMBASSADORS WITH  
FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ON MARCH 5 (CAPE TOWN 423), BOTHA  
REACTED TO OUR REFERENCE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN-ANGOLAN  
NEGOTIATIONS OVER A 50 KM. BUFFER ZONE BY DESCRIBING WHAT  
HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THOSE TALKS. HE SAID MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION  
HAD TURNED ON WHAT CONSTITUTED A "BASE". SINCE  
PRINCIPAL MILITARY CAMPS ALONG BORDER COINCIDE WITH SETTLE-  
MENTS (E.G., RUACANA, OSHIKANGO, RUNDU, KATIMA MULILO)  
WHICH COULD NOT BE DONE AWAY WITH, THEY TALKED ABOUT  
SCALING DOWN OF FORCES IN THESE CAMPS TO "PROTECTIVE  
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POINTS" WHICH WOULD NOT REPRESENT A THREAT TO THE OTHER  
SIDE. NETO AGREED TO THE SAG RETAINING SADF FORCES AT  
THESE POINTS PROVIDED THEIR NUMBERS WERE RESTRICTED AND  
HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS REMOVED.

2. BOTHA SAID IN ACTUAL FACT WHAT NETO WAS PREPARED TO  
ACCEPT IN THE BORDER AREA WAS MORE FAVORABLE TO THE SAG

THAN WHAT THE FIVE HAD PROPOSED. BOTHA STATED THAT AS AN EARNEST SIGN OF SAG GOOD FAITH THE SAG DID EVACUATE ONE OF THE "BASES". BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROKEN OFF WITHOUT EXPLANATION AT A TIME WHEN THEY APPEARED PROMISING. THE ONLY EXPLANATION THEY HAD FOR THE ABRUPT TERMINATION WAS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD GOTTEN WIND OF THE TALKS AND PUT A HALT TO THEM.

3. FOURIE IN OUR MEETING OF MARCH 8 (CAPE TOWN 456) WENT BACK TO THE SUNDAY CONVERSATION TO OBSERVE DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF SADF FORCES THAT BOTHA HAD GONE INTO AS MUCH DETAIL ON WHAT NETO WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD FACILITATE ACCEPTANCE BY THE FIVE OF PLACING PLATOON-SIZE UNITS AT THE FORWARD CAMPS. WE GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS SCORE.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUFFER AREAS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET00469  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3377550  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN-ANGOLAN TALKS ON BUFFER ZONE  
**TAGS:** PDEV, AO, SF, WA, UN  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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